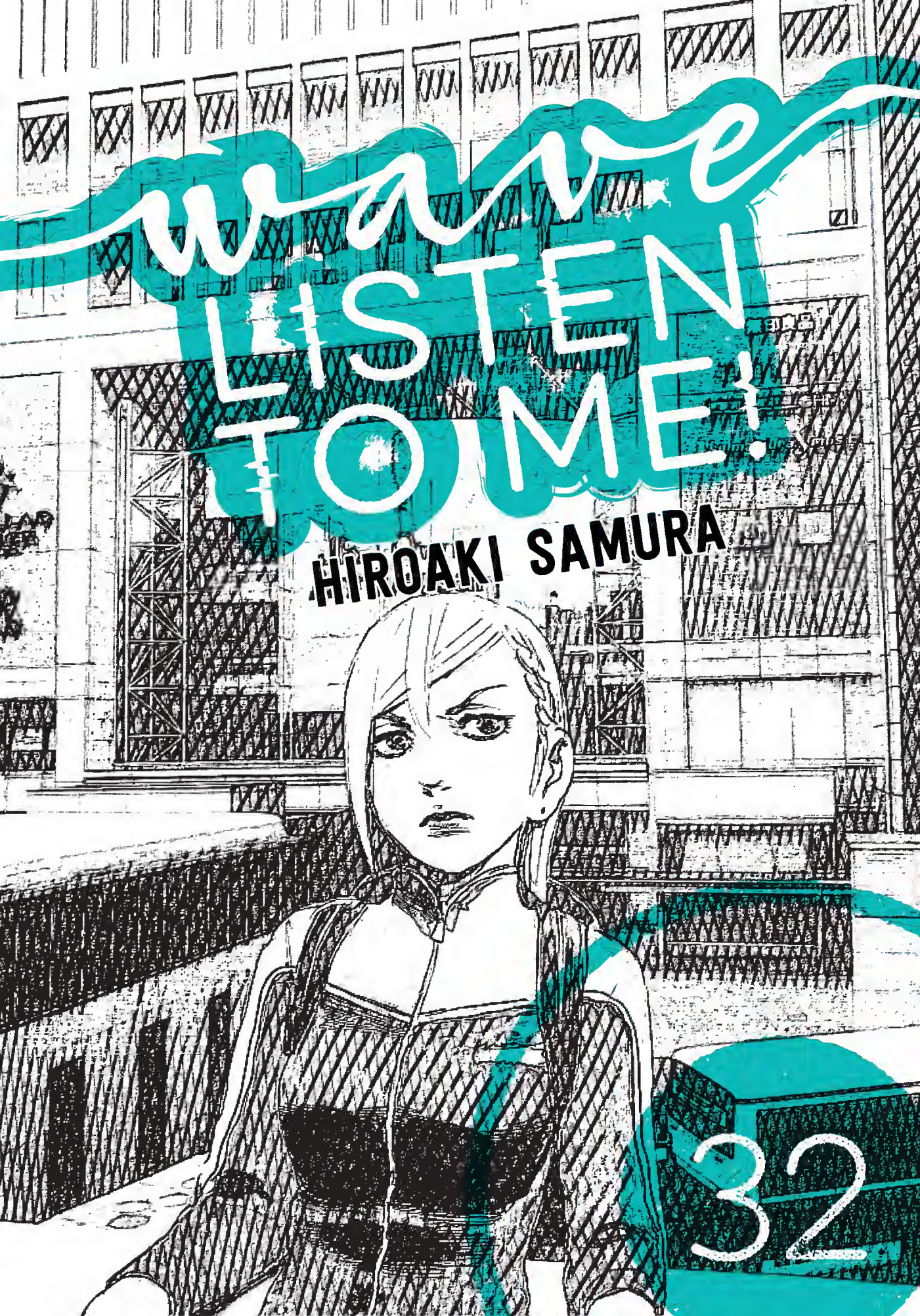
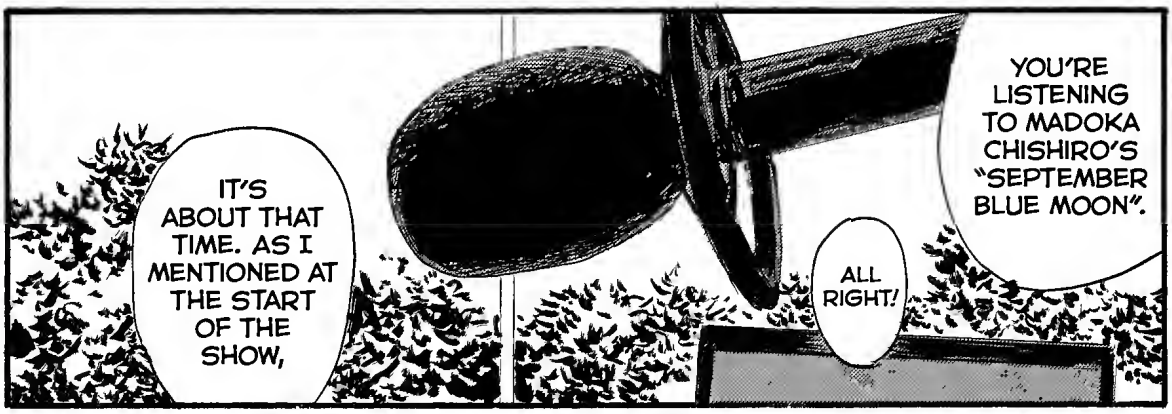

wave
LISTEN TO ME!
HIROAKI SAMURA
32

HIROAKI SAMURA
LISTEN TO ME!
Chapter 32
"I DON'T WANNA GO WITH YOU."

THE STORY SO FAR

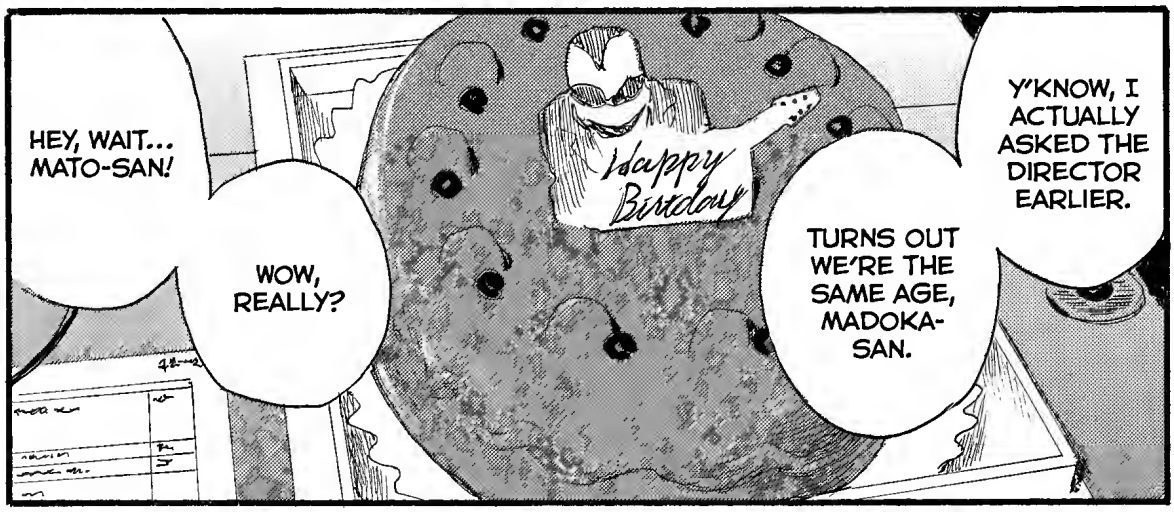
UNDER FM STATION WORKER MATO'S GUIDANCE, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ, AND WHILE ENCOUNTERING NONSTOP TWISTS AND TURNS, SOMEHOW MANAGES TO TAKE THINGS ONE SHOW AT A TIME. MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO MOVES TO MAKE A CAREER SHIFT, LEAVING HIS SECRET ADMIRER MIZUHO DUMBSTRUCK. WHEN KUREKO BRINGS UP PLANS TO MAKE A TRIP TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR HIS NEW BOOK, MIZUHO JUMPS AT THE CHANCE TO HELP.

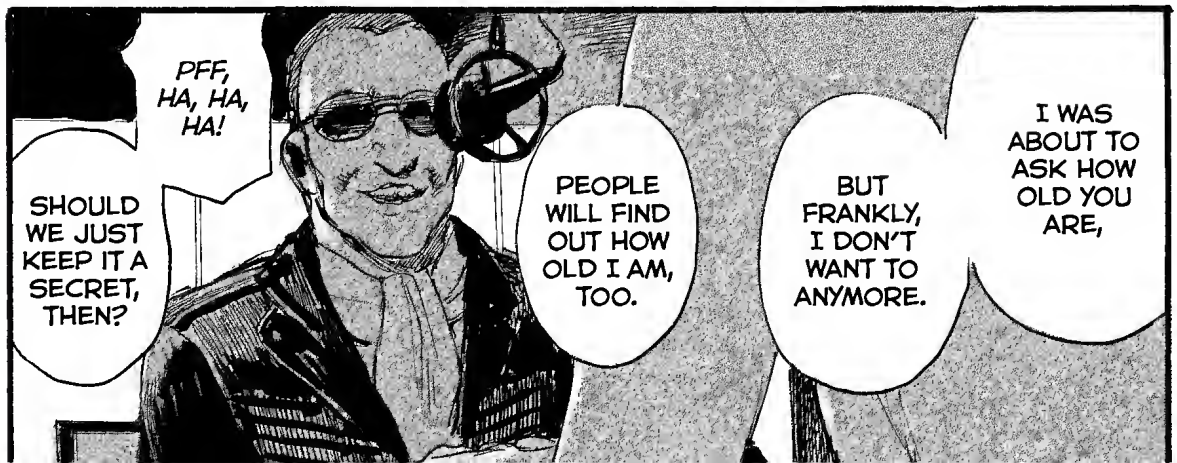

IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME. AS I MENTIONED AT THE START OF THE SHOW,
ALL RIGHT!
YOU'RE LISTENING TO MADOKA CHISHIRO'S "SEPTEMBER BLUE MOON".

HEY. HIJIRI YAMIKOJI HERE.
EMPEROR COWPER HIMSELF, HIJIRI YAMIKOJI-SAN!
JOINING ME IN THE BOOTH NOW IS MY OH-SO-WONDERFUL GUEST,

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE OR GROUPS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

AS SUCH, WE'VE PREPARED A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO CELEBRATE.
THE COLOR IS, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY, VERY *AMERICAN.*
HUH?! SERIOUSLY?
OH, WOW. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.
WHEEEW. IT'S A FULL, BRIGHT BLUE CAKE, LADIES AND GENTS. I'VE ONLY SEEN CAKES LIKE THESE ON AMERICAN TV.

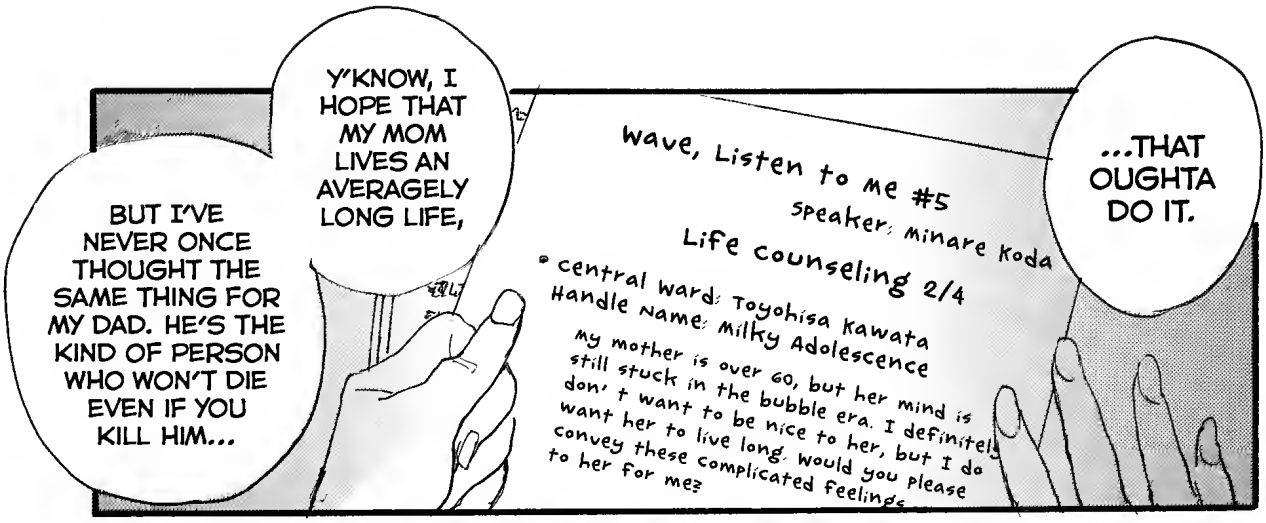

Y'KNOW, I ACTUALLY ASKED THE DIRECTOR EARLIER.
TURNS OUT WE'RE THE SAME AGE, MADOKA-SAN.
WOW, REALLY?
HEY, WAIT... MATO-SAN!
Happy Birthday

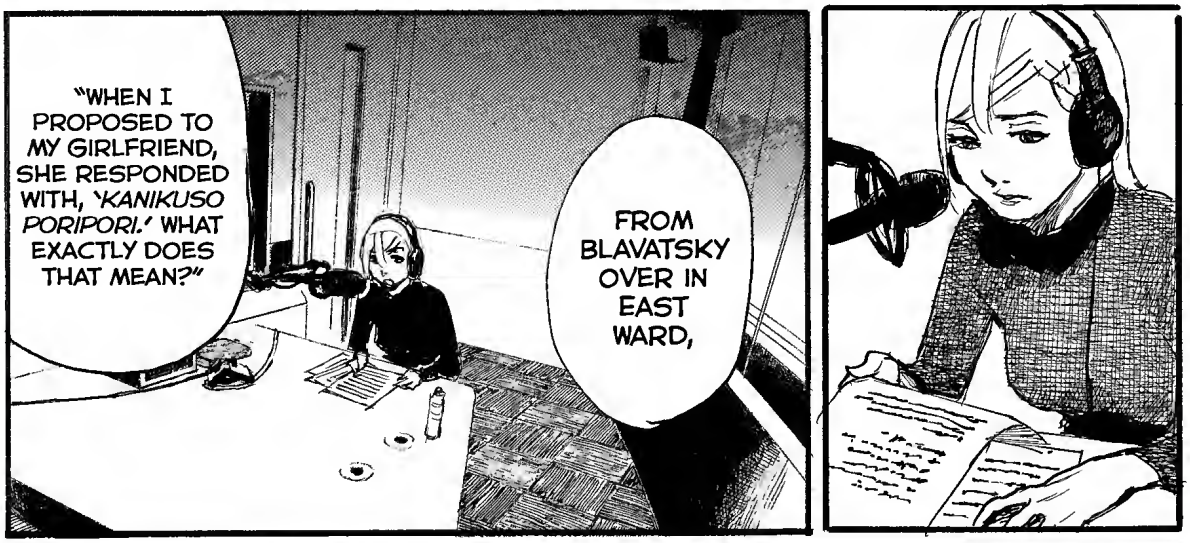

I WAS ABOUT TO ASK HOW OLD YOU ARE,
BUT FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT TO ANYMORE.
PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT HOW OLD I AM, TOO.
SHOULD WE JUST KEEP IT A SECRET, THEN?
PFF, HA, HA, HA!

WELL, THE LISTENERS COULD JUST CHECK MY WIKI IF THEY WANTED TO FIND OUT, ANYWAY.
BA HA HA HA
IT'S FINE. NO SENSE HIDING IT AT THIS POINT.
35! I'M 35 YEARS OLD.

THOUGH I HAVE BEEN CALLED A HAG BY ONE OF THE YOUNGER DJS BEFORE.
WHY, THANK YOU.
I WILL SAY YOU LOOK VERY YOUNG FOR YOUR AGE.
ON AIR
REC

ABOUT AS LONG AS SARAH JESSIKA PARKER'S FACE!
I'LL GO AHEAD AND PRAY THAT YOU LIVE A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE.
IS COZYING UP UNDER THE *KOTATSU** MARATHONING *SEX AND THE CITY* THE ONLY WAY YOU KNOW HOW TO SPEND A DAY OFF?!
YO, HAG!
*A HEATER-EQUIPPED TABLE, COVERED WITH A BLANKET.

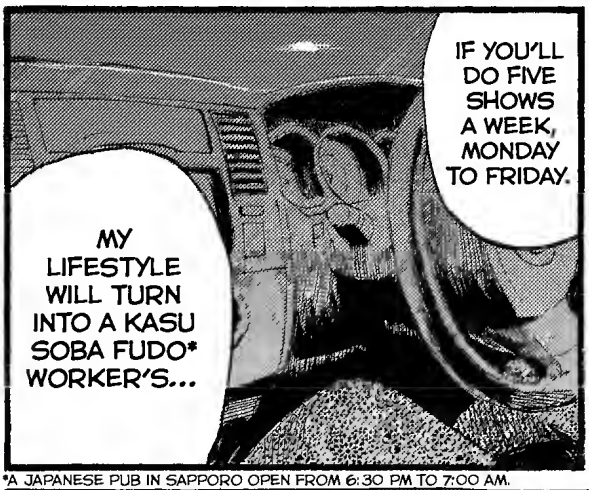

Y'KNOW, I HOPE THAT MY MOM LIVES AN AVERAGELY LONG LIFE,
BUT I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT THE SAME THING FOR MY DAD. HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WON'T DIE EVEN IF YOU KILL HIM...
Wave, Listen to me #5
Speaker: Minare Koda
Life counseling 2/4
• central ward: Toyohisa Kawata
Handle name: Milky Adolescence
My mother is over 60, but her mind is still stuck in the bubble era. I definitely don't want to be nice to her, but I do want her to live long. Would you please convey these complicated feelings to her for me?
...THAT OUGHTA DO IT.

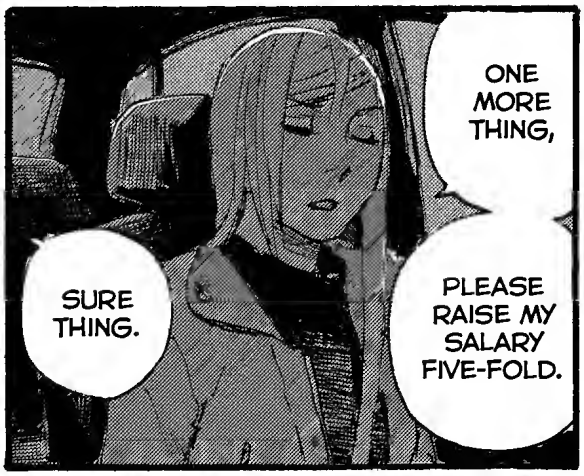

"WHEN I PROPOSED TO MY GIRLFRIEND, SHE RESPONDED WITH, 'KANIKUSO PORIPORI.' WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN?"
FROM BLAVATSKY OVER IN EAST WARD,

"PORIPORI" MEANS "TUBE."
LIBERALLY TRANSLATED, I RECKON IT MEANS, "YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY BLOOD TRANSFUSION TUBE." PROPOSING TO HER IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM SEEMS TO HAVE COMPLETELY BACKFIRED.
IN AMHARIC, "KANIKUSO" MEANS "TO TRAMPLE."
AHH... KANIKUSO PORIPORI, EH? IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT'S THE ETHIOPIAN LANGUAGE OF AMHARIC.

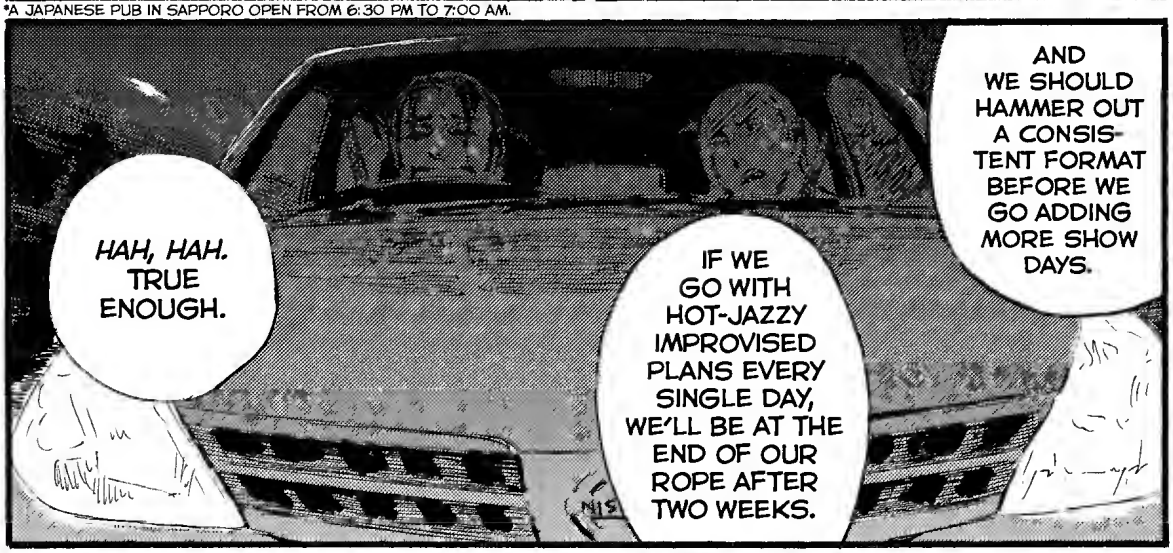
"MINARE-SAN, AMONG ALL THE DYING MESSAGES YOU'VE SEEN, PLEASE TELL ME THE ONE WHICH LEFT THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION."
UHH. NEXT, FROM GOLDFISH GRAVEYARD IN IWAMI-ZAWA,
UUUGH. I'M BEAT...
HM? WHAT'S UP?
MATO-SAN, I HAVE A VERY PRESSING REQUEST TO MAKE.
HMM...
SINCE VOYAGER IS CLOSED ON WEDNES-DAYS.
WHAT WOULD HELP THE MOST IS IF WE COULD MOVE THE BROADCAST TO TUESDAY,
IT'S PRETTY ROUGH GOING TO BED AT FOUR IN THE MORNING ONLY TO MEET AT NINE. DOESN'T IT SUCK FOR YOU, TOO?
ABOUT OUR POST-MORTEM MEETINGS THE DAY AFTER SHOWS,
COULD WE MAYBE MOVE THEM TO TWO DAYS AFTER INSTEAD?

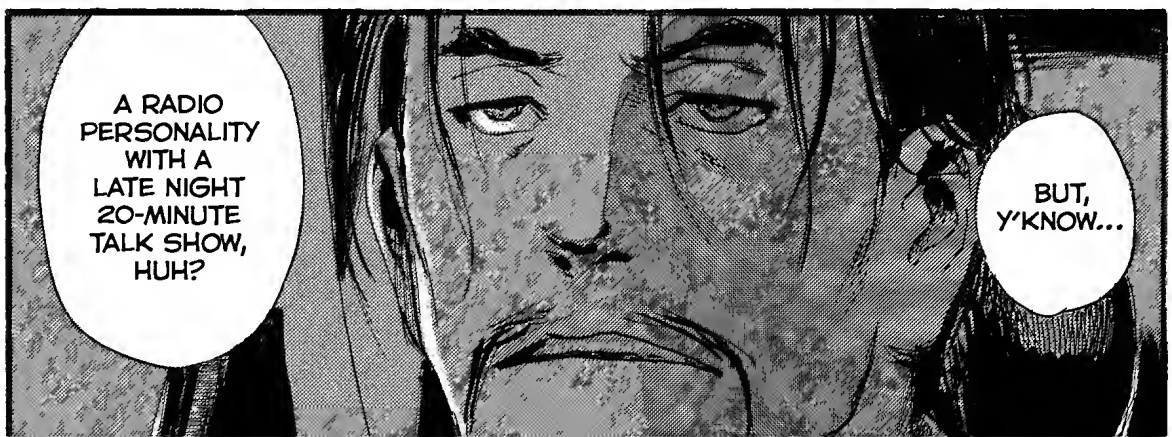
...WELL, I'M SURE WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. WE'RE THE ONLY SHOW THAT USES THIS TIME SLOT, ANYWAY.
IT'S MUCH HARDER TO CHANGE THE BROADCAST DATE, THOUGH.
SURE, WE CAN MOVE THE MEETINGS BACK A DAY.

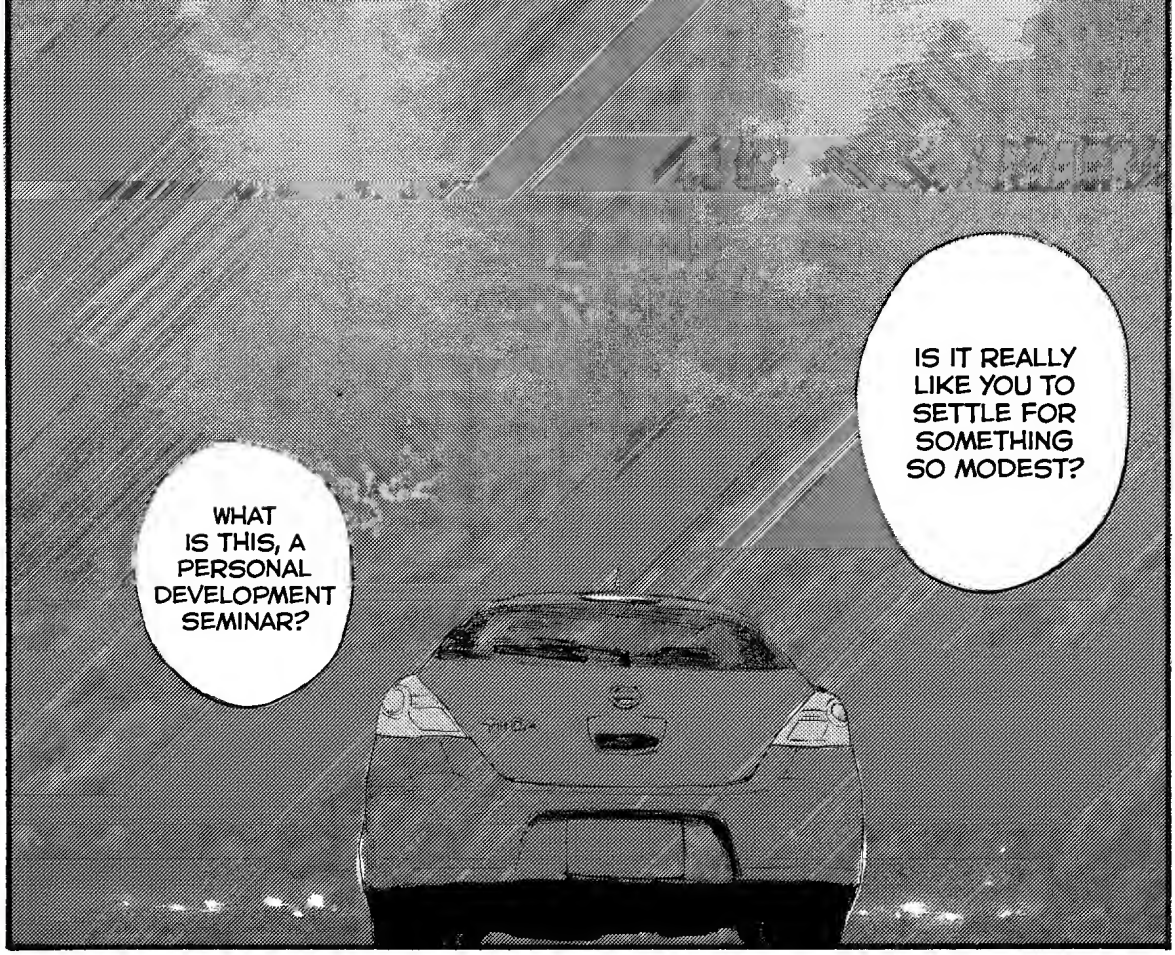




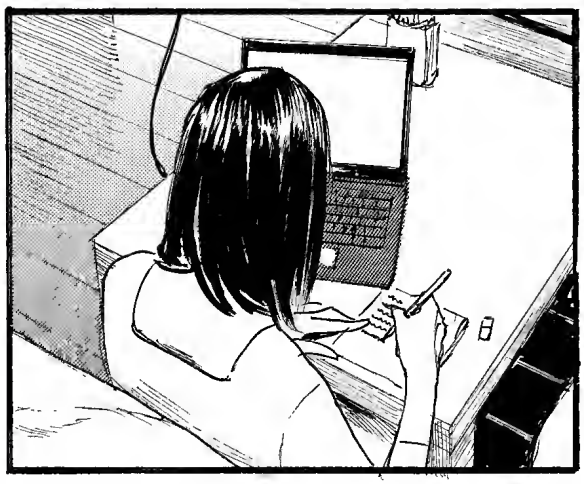
*A JAPANESE PUB IN SAPPORO OPEN FROM 6:30 PM TO 7:00 AM.

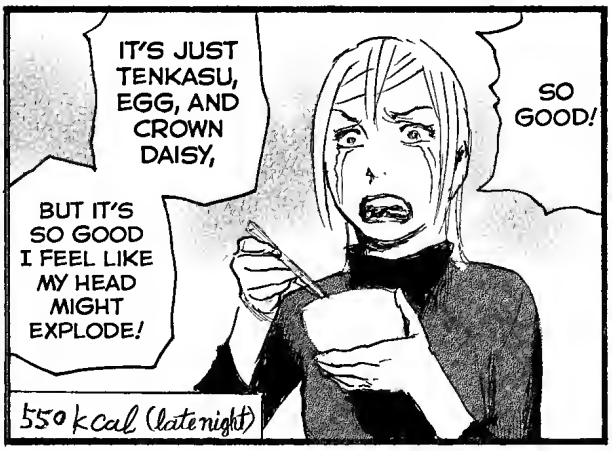

HAH, HAH. TRUE ENOUGH.
IF WE GO WITH HOT-JAZZY IMPROVISED PLANS EVERY SINGLE DAY, WE'LL BE AT THE END OF OUR ROPE AFTER TWO WEEKS.
AND WE SHOULD HAMMER OUT A CONSIS-TENT FORMAT BEFORE WE GO ADDING MORE SHOW DAYS.

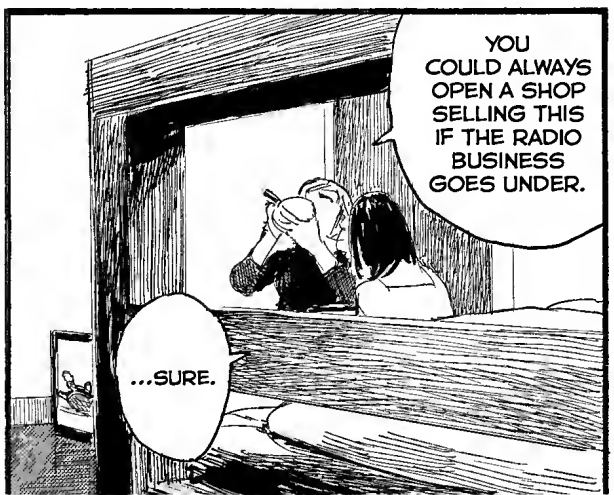


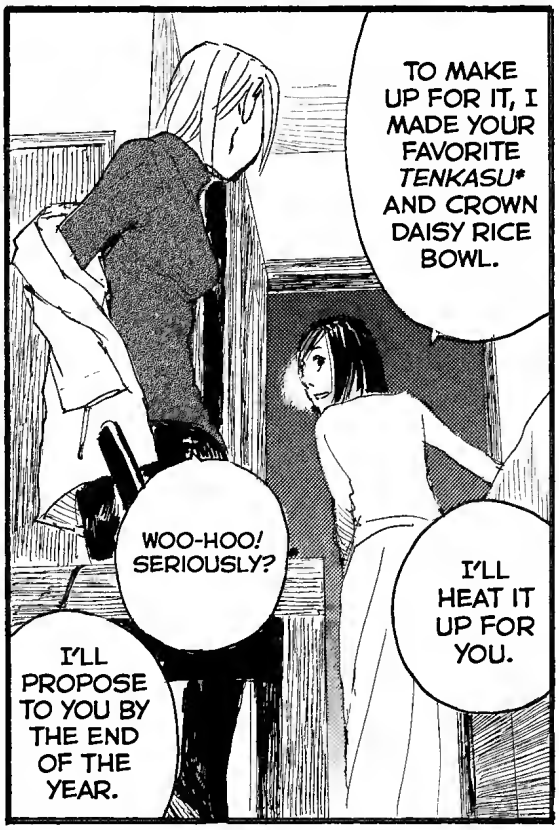

IS IT REALLY LIKE YOU TO SETTLE FOR SOMETHING SO MODEST?
WHAT IS THIS, A PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR?

...

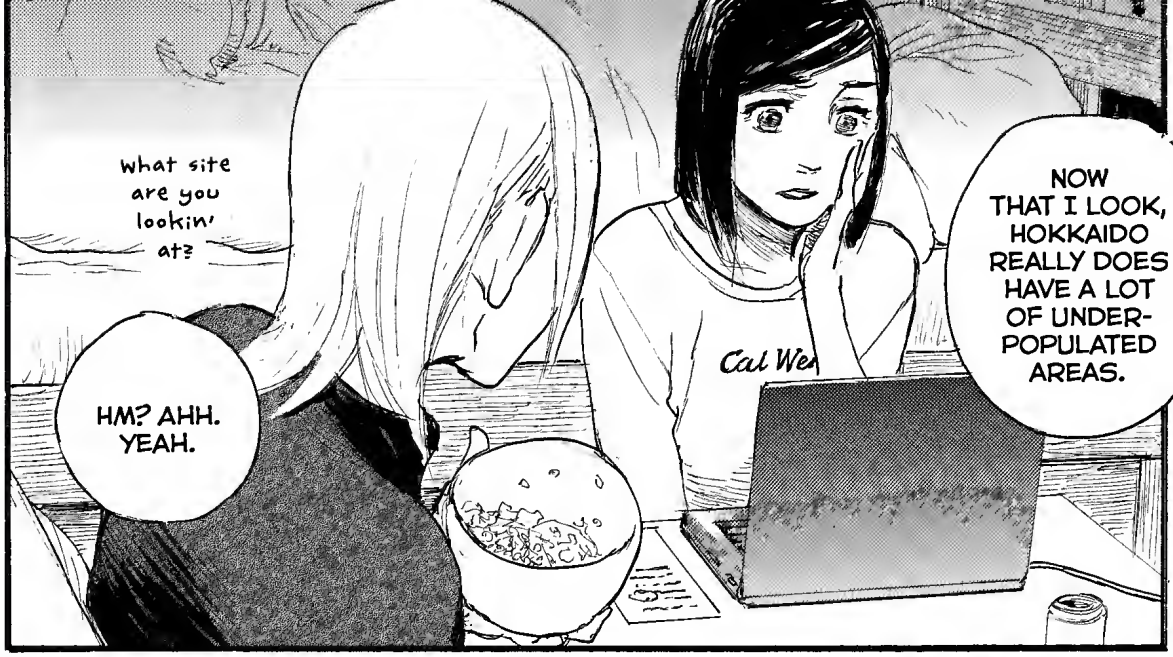


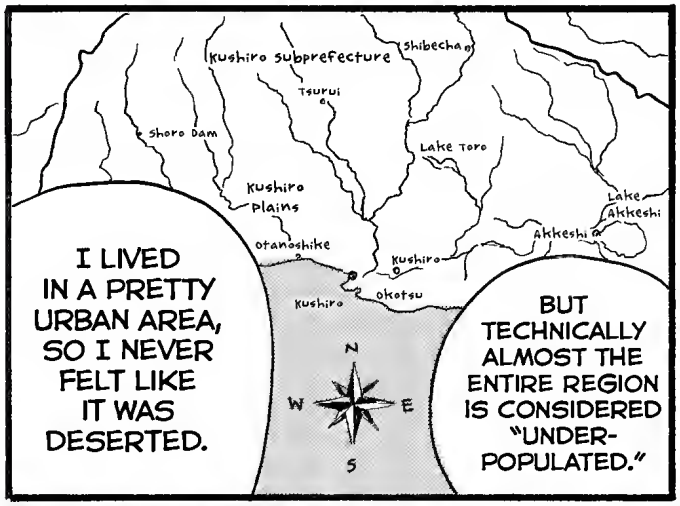





TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I MADE YOUR FAVORITE *TENKASU** AND CROWN DAISY RICE BOWL.
I'LL HEAT IT UP FOR YOU.
WOO-HOO! SERIOUSLY?
I'LL PROPOSE TO YOU BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

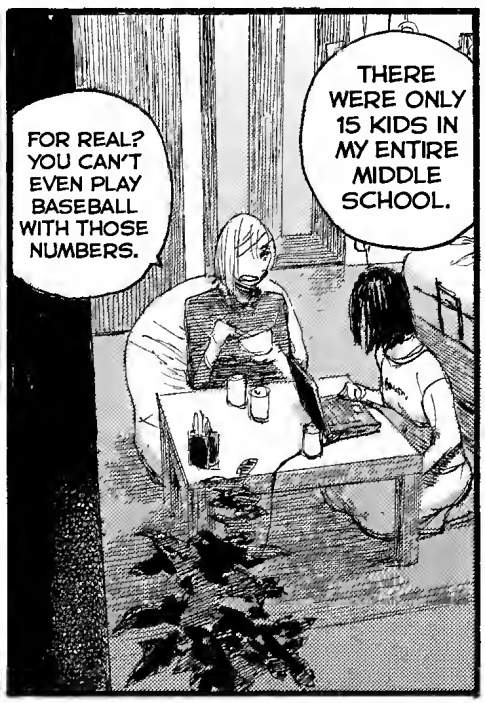
*CRUNCHY FRIED BITS OF TEMPURA BATTER. ALSO KNOWN AS *AGEDAMA*.

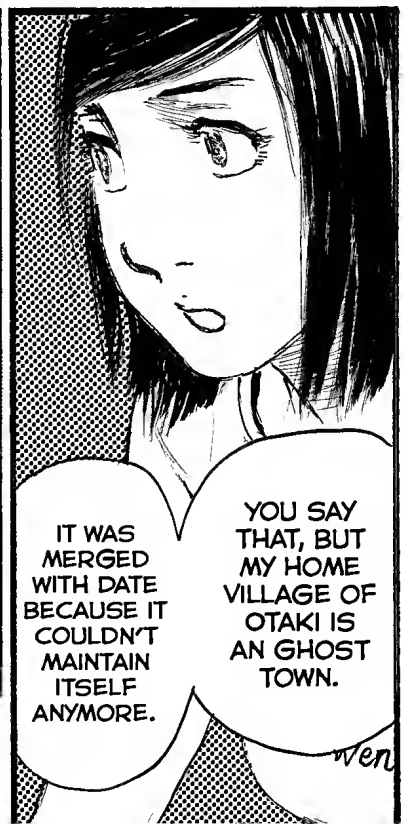

What site are you lookin' at?
HM? AHH. YEAH.
NOW THAT I LOOK, HOKKAIDO REALLY DOES HAVE A LOT OF UNDER-POPULATED AREAS.

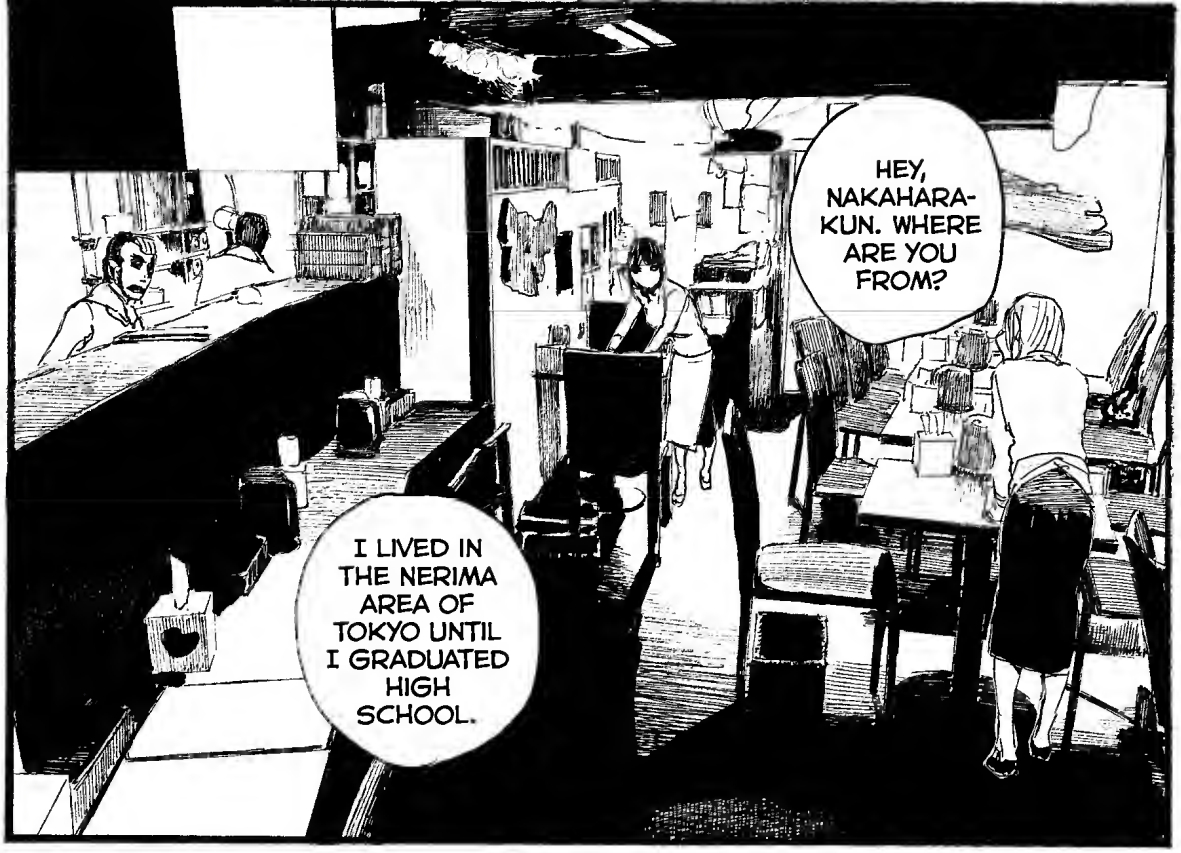

Kushiro Subprefecture
Shibecha
Tsurui
Shoro Dam
Lake Toro
Kushiro Plains
Lake Akkeshi
Akkeshi
Otanoshike
Kushiro
Kushiro
Okotsu
N
W
E
S
I LIVED IN A PRETTY URBAN AREA, SO I NEVER FELT LIKE IT WAS DESERTED.
BUT TECHNICALLY ALMOST THE ENTIRE REGION IS CONSIDERED "UNDER-POPULATED."

MY HOME-TOWN OF KUSHIRO ...
...IS SUPPOS-EDLY THE FOURTH BIGGEST CITY IN HOKKAIDO.

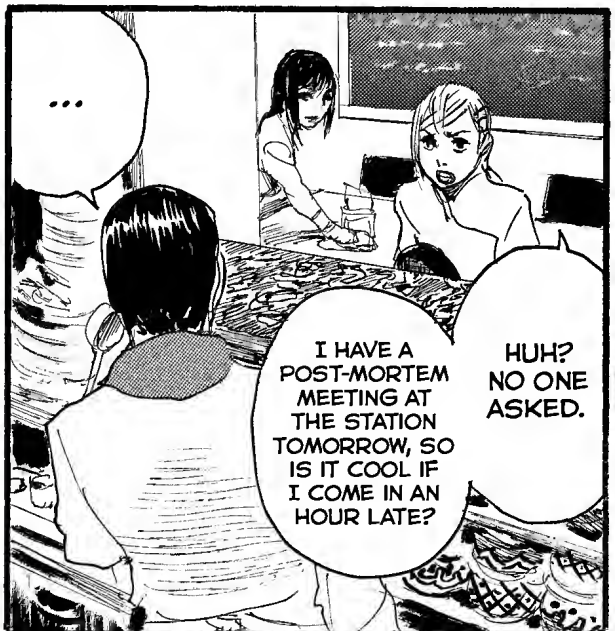
Hmm.
SO? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT...?

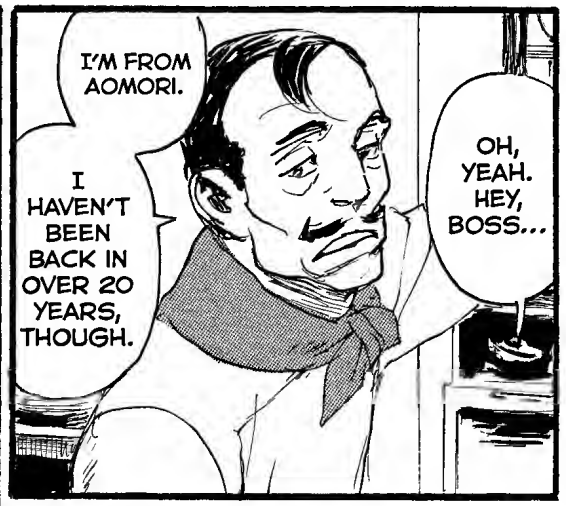

FOR REAL? YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY BASEBALL WITH THOSE NUMBERS.
THERE WERE ONLY 15 KIDS IN MY ENTIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL.


IT WAS MERGED WITH DATE BECAUSE IT COULDN'T MAINTAIN ITSELF ANYMORE.
YOU SAY THAT, BUT MY HOME VILLAGE OF OTAKI IS AN GHOST TOWN.


HEY, NAKAHARA-KUN. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I LIVED IN THE NERIMA AREA OF TOKYO UNTIL I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL.

ARE YOU DISSING THE BOONIES?
THERE WERE MORE UNMANNED PRODUCE STANDS THAN CONVENIENCE STORES. WHAT A JOKE, RIGHT?
OR SO I SAY, BUT IT WAS REALLY CLOSER TO SAITAMA.


...
I HAVE A POST-MORTEM MEETING AT THE STATION TOMORROW, SO IS IT COOL IF I COME IN AN HOUR LATE?
HUH? NO ONE ASKED.


I'M FROM AOMORI.
I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK IN OVER 20 YEARS, THOUGH.
OH, YEAH. HEY, BOSS...

YOU BETTER NOT BE THINKING YOU CAN WALK AROUND LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE DUE TO THE WHOLE SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE INCIDENT.
WAIT...
WELL, YEAH.
LISTEN, GIRLY.
AREN'T YOU GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY LATELY?
IF YOUR MEETING IS TOMORROW, THEN WHY WERE YOU TWO HOURS LATE TODAY?
HUH...? HANG ON.
OH...
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO TAKE IT EASY ON SUNDAY FOR A WHILE, SO I JUST KINDA OVER-SLEPT...
TWITCH
WHAT, NO DICE?
WELL...THE DEAL WAS TO PLAY THE AUDIO IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING YOUR JOB.
I THINK YOU *COULD* TECHNICALLY CALL IT COERCION, BUT...
YOU MIGHT ALSO END UP GETTING SUED BY THE STATION IF THINGS GO WRONG.
knowledge acquired from detective shows.
UMM... EXCUSE ME, SIR.
MAY I ALSO LEAVE AN HOUR EARLY TOMORROW?
I HAVE A WORK MEETING I NEED TO ATTEND. I'M SORRY FOR THE INCONVE-NIENCE.
OHH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! NO BIGGIE!

A DREAMLAND OF CURRY AND BREAD.
VOYAGER
TACHIBANA-SAN IS A VOLUNTEER.
I PAY YOU GOOD MONEY.
GOOD...?
WHOA, WHOA, TAKARADA-SAN.
I SENSE A DISCREPANCY IN YOUR TREATMENT OF ME VERSUS TACHIBANA-SAN.
O-OKAY.
I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A CONDITION,
BUT IF YOU COULD TELL YOUR BROTHER TO DROP BY FOR CURRY ONCE IN A WHILE, I'D APPRECIATE IT.
KUREKO-SAN...!
HM?

REALLY, WHENEVER YOU HAVE TIME IS FINE.
SERIOUSLY? THAT WAS QUICK.
AFTER NARROWING THE LIST DOWN TO VALLEY VILLAGES WITH LESS THAN 50% OF THE POPULATION UNDER THE AGE 55, I CAME UP WITH EIGHT CANDIDATES.
MATERIAL HUNTING, HUH? BETTER GET OUT THERE BEFORE SNOW SEASON.
YEAH... SORRY, BUT I'M PROBABLY GONNA HAVE TO TAKE A WEEK OR SO OFF.
AS FOR PHOTOS, I BORROWED SOME FROM BLOGS BY SOLO TRAVELERS AND UNDERPOPULATED GHOST TOWN FANATICS.
FOR PLACES WITH PAVED ROADS, IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO LOOK AROUND WITH STREET VIEWER ONLINE.
I ALSO INCLUDED A NUMBER OF PAGES FROM THE OFFICIAL SITE THAT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
THIS IS A DOCUMENT REGARDING THE INQUIRY TO THE REGION RESTORATION BUREAU'S VILLAGE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP AND THE LOCAL TOURISM AGENCY.
...
NAH, NAH. I CAN'T DUMP *EVERYTHING* ON YOU.
LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU DECIDE ON A PLACE AND DATE,
THEN I'LL JUST...

SORRY I'M LATE!
MINARE KODA HAS ARRIVED!
I'LL JUST WIND UP A BROKEN MESS, TOO.
THAT BEING SAID, IF I'M TOO HARD ON MYSELF...
I KNEW THAT MUCH.
I'M THE KINDA PERSON WHO'S WAY TOO EASY ON MYSELF WITHOUT ORDER AND DISCIPLINE.
UUUGH. SERIOUSLY?
HOW DID I OVERSLEEP MULTIPLE DAYS IN A ROW?
MINARE.
I HAVE FAITH THAT THE RADIO INDUSTRY IS MAGNANIMOUS ENOUGH TO ACCEPT ONE SUCH AS I...

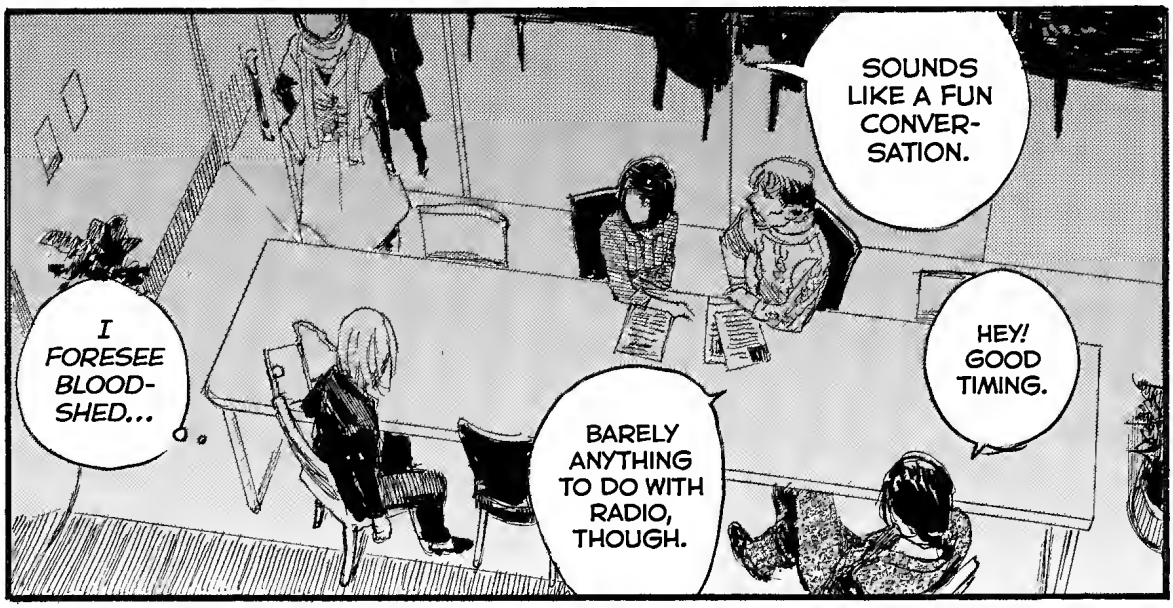
I WANT YOU...
...TO ACCOMPANY KUREKO ON HIS MATERIAL HUNTING TRIP.
LEAVE THE FOLKS AT VOYAGER TO ME.
I'LL TELL THEM WE'LL PLAY A 20-SECOND PLUG FOR THE STORE IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR ABSENCE.
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, RECORD A LOG OF THE TRIP IN A WAY THAT WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF THINGS.

WHY ME, ANYWAY?! THAT'S LIKE MIXING WATER AND OIL!
JUST BECAUSE I WAS LATE TO THE MEETING, YOU THINK YOU CAN...
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, MATO-SAN.
YOU'LL ALSO BE GOING AS MINARE'S ASSISTANT, NANBA.
SORRY, MATO, BUT I'D REALLY PREFER TO FLY SOLO...
WHAT?!

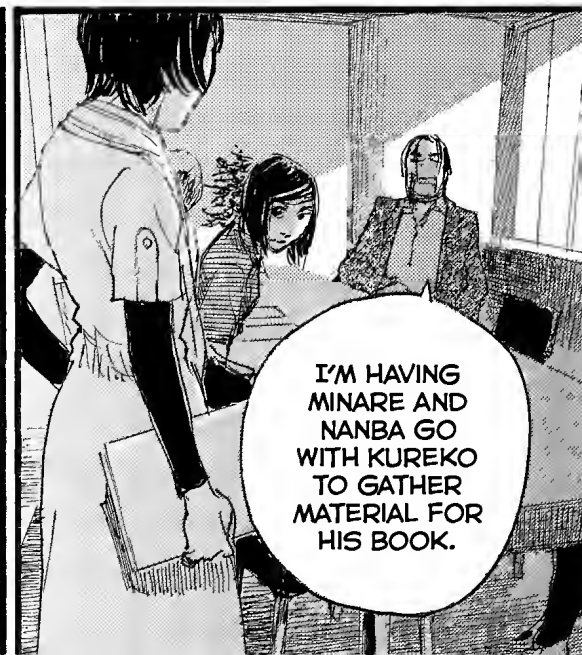
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF ONE OF US WINDS UP PREGGERS?!
AN EROTIC NOVEL WRITER AND TWO YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS ON A HOT SPRINGS TRIP TO-GETHER?
MINARE.
HOT SPRING?
IN THAT CASE...
UM... OKAY!
MRS WILL MANAGE WITHOUT YOU FOR A WEEK.
AND MAKING KUREKO HELP WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.
MINARE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BY HERSELF, RIGHT?

YOU COOL SON OF A BITCH...

I HONESTLY THINK YOU'RE BEST SUITED TO FILL THE ROLE OF MOIWAYAMA RADIO'S COMMANDO UNIT.


SOUNDS LIKE A FUN CONVER-SATION.
HEY! GOOD TIMING.
BARELY ANYTHING TO DO WITH RADIO, THOUGH.
I FORESEE BLOOD-SHED...

IT'S GOING TO FEEL LONELY AROUND HERE.
IS THAT SO?

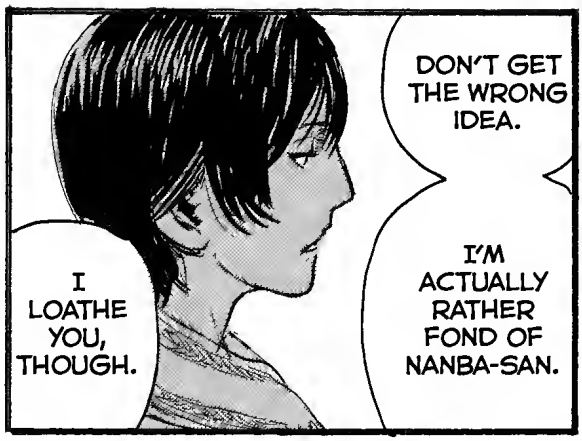

I'M HAVING MINARE AND NANBA GO WITH KUREKO TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR HIS BOOK.

I'LL BE LOOKING AFTER KUREKO-SAN ON-SITE FOR A WEEK.

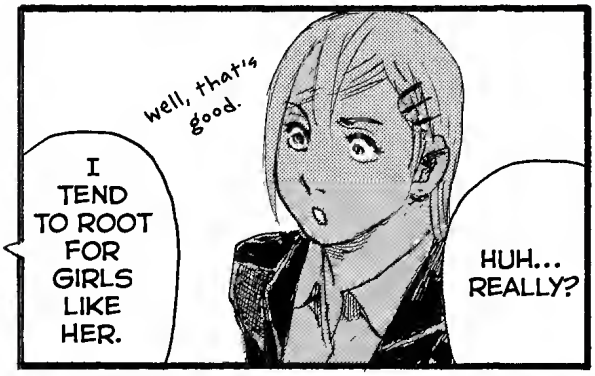
GIMME A BREAK...
LUCKY GUY.
AND I WAS SO CLEAR ABOUT NOT LETTING MY WRITING GET IN THE WAY OF THINGS AT THE STATION, TOO.

SIIIGH. HOW DULL.

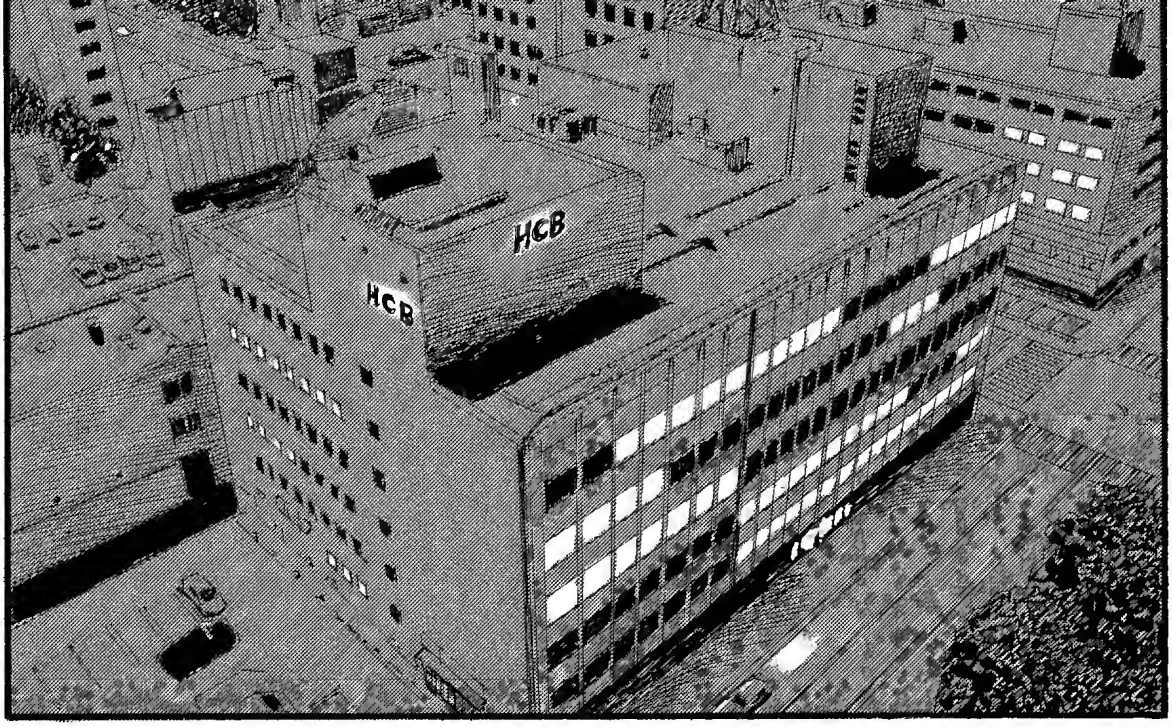
HANG IN THERE. HE CAN BE SUCH A SLOB.

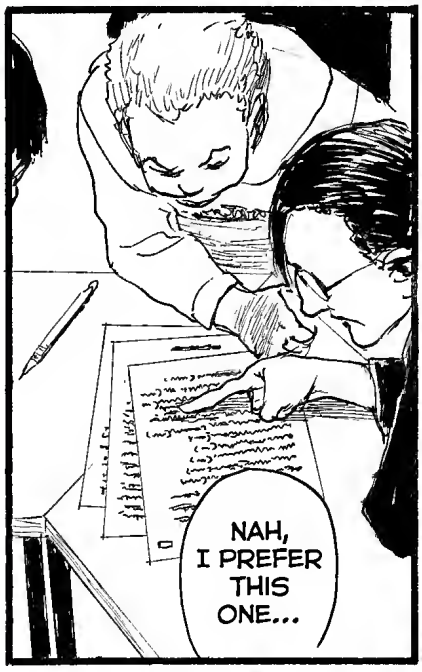

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
I'M ACTUALLY RATHER FOND OF NANBA-SAN.
I LOATHE YOU, THOUGH.

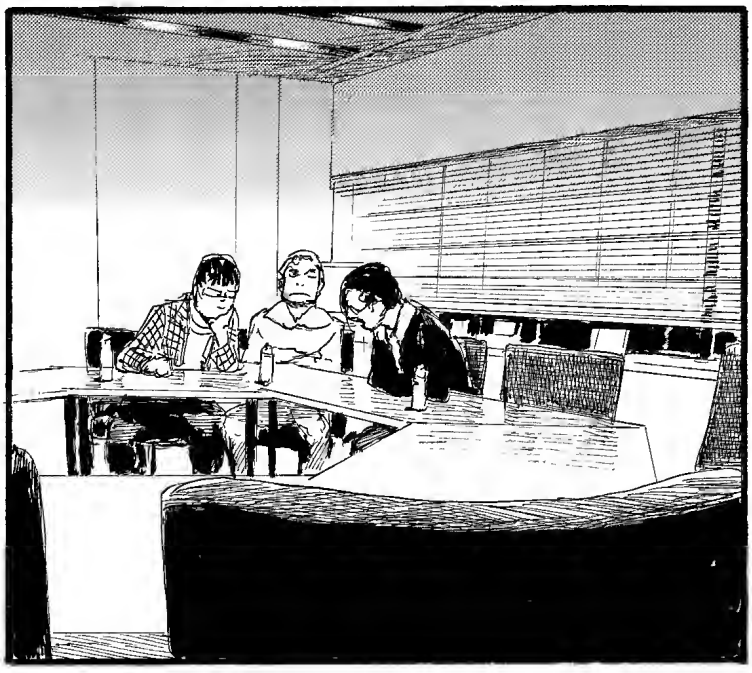
I WANT TO SEE YOU ABSOLUTELY LOSE YOUR SHIT, CHISHIRO-SAN.
CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "YOU THIEVING WHORE!"
OR TURN AROUND AFTER SHARING A HOT AND BOTHERED KISS WITH KUREKO-SAN AND SAY, "THINK YOU CAN PULL THAT OFF, KIDDO?"
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO DO THAT ON THE JOB?


Well, that's good.
I TEND TO ROOT FOR GIRLS LIKE HER.
HUH... REALLY?

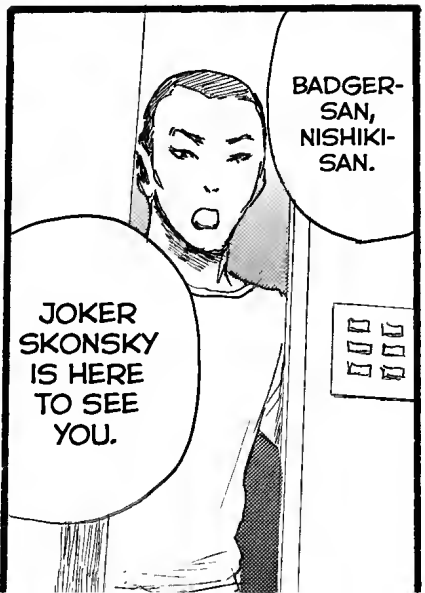
PLAIN JANES...
WITH NOTHING OF THEIR OWN TO SPEAK OF.

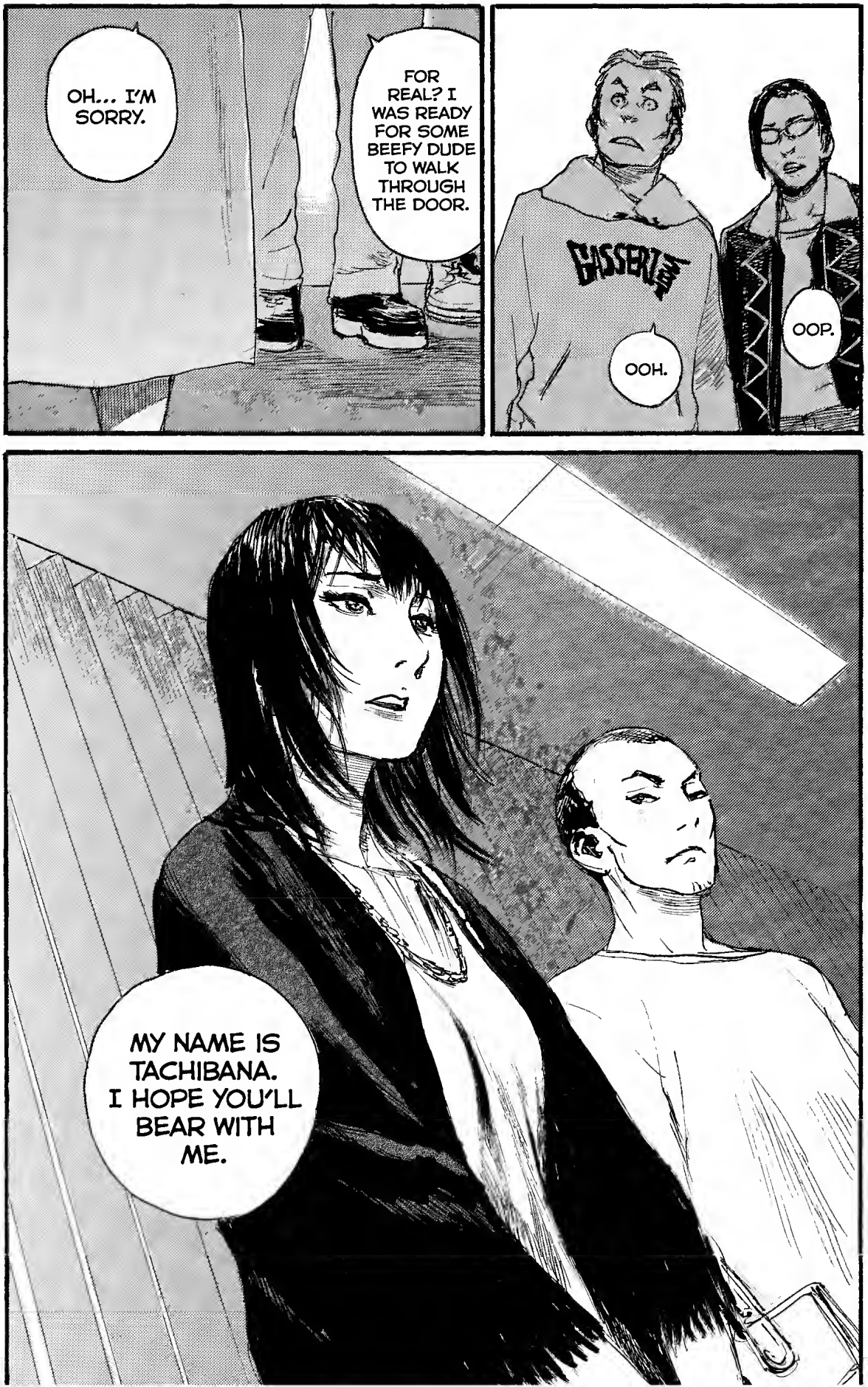

HCB
HCB


NAH, I PREFER THIS ONE...



WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GIVE UP?
HERE'S HOPING IT'S A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
SURE THING.


JOKER SKONSKY IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
BADGER-SAN, NISHIKI-SAN.


OH... I'M SORRY.
FOR REAL? I WAS READY FOR SOME BEEFY DUDE TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR.
OOH.
OOP.
MY NAME IS TACHIBANA. I HOPE YOU'LL BEAR WITH ME.